

July 3, 2006

July Third

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The Inaugural Meeting of Danville City Council was held on the above date at 12 o'clock noon in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Ruby B. Archie, P. A. "Pete" Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther, T. Wayne Oakes, Sherman M. Saunders, Adam J. Tomer, and R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (9).

Staff members present were City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., Assistant City Attorney John C. Blair, II, and City Clerk Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

City Clerk Annette Crane called the Meeting to order. Ms. Crane extended a welcome to everyone in attendance.

Ms. Crane introduced Assistant City Attorney John Blair, who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

PRESENTATION OF ELECTION CERTIFICATES

Secretary of the Electoral Board Sylvesta L. Jennings presented Certificates of Election to Council Members Ruby B. Archie, T. Wayne Oakes, Adam J. Tomer, and R. Wayne Williams, Jr., certifying their election during the May 2, 2006 Election to City Council for four-year terms commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2010.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Ms. Crane administered the Oath of Office to Ruby B. Archie, T. Wayne Oakes, Adam J. Tomer, and R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (Clerk's Note: The Oaths are marked as "Exhibit A" and are made a part of these Minutes).

ELECTION OF MAYOR

The next Order of Business was the election of Mayor for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2008.

Ms. Crane turned the floor over to City Attorney Clarke Whitfield to conduct the elections. Mr. Whitfield opened the floor for nominations for Mayor.

Council Member Archie nominated R. Wayne Williams, Jr., who has served on City Council for eight years and served as Vice-Mayor for six years. Mrs. Archie said during Dr. Williams' term as Vice-Mayor, he worked closely with Mayor Hamlin, substituting for the Mayor several times. Dr. Williams' ability to sum up major agenda items that had

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been discussed during Council Meetings on Roll Call was an attribute very much appreciated by Mrs. Archie. She said that not only was Dr. Williams interested in Danville, but was also very interested in and has accepted the challenge of improving the quality of life for all of Danville's citizens. Since he was born, raised and educated in Danville, Dr. Williams has a passion for the city's constituents and has an understanding of their needs. Therefore, I nominate R. Wayne Williams, Jr. to serve as Mayor.

Council Member Oakes seconded the nomination.

There were no further nominations for Mayor and upon unanimous vote, the nominations were closed.

Council Members voting for Dr. Williams were Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Tomer, and Williams (9). Nays (0).

R. Wayne Williams, Jr. was elected to serve as Mayor for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2008.

ELECTION OF VICE-MAYOR

Mr. Whitfield opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Mayor for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2008.

Council Member Castiglione nominated Sherman M. Saunders for Vice-Mayor. In his remarks, Mr. Castiglione said he had known Mr. Saunders for over 35 years. He has served with distinction on the Council since 1996. Mr. Castiglione said as he thought about Sherman, there were three specific things that came to his mind, ability, empathy, and integrity. Mr. Saunders' ability is known not only locally, but also throughout the State, and nationally. He is just as comfortable in Washington, D. C. meeting with the Secretary of Commerce as he is with meeting the Governor's staff. Mr. Castiglione said if he and Sherman go to dinner or a meeting, everyone is greeting Sherman by his first name and patting him on his back. All of this comes by hard work. His ability has been demonstrated at all three levels. The next thing is empathy. I know of no one who has more empathy for everyone than Sherman Saunders. He is equally as comfortable meeting with someone on Green Street and meeting with industrial top brass. Sherman has the ability to comfort citizens when they need comforting and when the time comes to make hard decisions; Sherman is willing to do so.

Mr. Castiglione said these things do not matter if one has no integrity and Mr. Saunders epitomizes integrity. He has taken many strong stands and stuck to his guns, no matter what the cost. He concluded his remarks by adding that Sherman is the type of individual that people trusts. Ability, empathy, and integrity. That is Sherman Saunders.

Council Member Hamlin seconded the nomination.

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There were no further nominations for Vice-Mayor and by unanimous vote, the nominations were closed.

Council Members voting for Mr. Saunders were: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Tomer, and Williams (9). Nays (0).

Sherman M. Saunders was elected to serve as Vice-Mayor for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2008.

DRAWING FOR COUNCIL SEATING

The last item of business conducted by Ms. Crane was the drawing for Council Seating. Following the drawing, the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Members of Council assumed their respective seats.

In his acceptance remarks, Mayor Williams thanked the citizens of Danville for the privilege and honor to serve a third term of office. Dr. Williams thanked Mrs. Archie for the nomination. He said she had been his teacher and his mentor and that he would continue to learn from her. To City Council, Dr. Williams thanked them for the trust they had placed in him. He stated he considered them not only colleagues, but also friends. He said that by working together, accomplishments would be taken to the next level. He said a lot of hard work and planning had brought the City to where it is today. To City Manager Gwaltney, Dr. Williams said City Council had given him specific goals and he had delivered. He stated he looked forward to working with Mr. Gwaltney.

To Mrs. Archie and Mr. Hamlin, Dr. Williams said their patience and dedication as past Mayors had really set the framework for the future and success of the Council. Both will be role models for him. To Mr. Castiglione, Dr. Williams said his service as Vice-Mayor came at a transitional time for the Council. His leadership help set the foundation for the present Council.

Dr. Williams offered thanks to the Council Members who came before the present Council. He said they had done so much to shape the future of Danville and to make it a better place to live and work.

Dr. Williams recognized and acknowledged the presence of his father, Ronald W. Williams. Mr. Williams was a Council Member from 1970 to 1977 and served as Mayor from 1970 to 1972. To his father, Dr. Williams said his father had told him many times how proud he was of him and of his accomplishments. Dr. Williams said now it was his turn to let his father know how proud he was of him and everything he had done for the City and for his family.

The new Mayor said now there was work to do. The future of Danville stands before us. Danville is a City in transition, a City with immense potential. Working together, we can tap that potential and improve the quality of life for every Danville citizen. It will take teamwork and it will take communication.

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To Vice-Mayor Saunders, he said Sherman had demonstrated that he was a team player and dedicated to Danville. Dr. Williams said he looked forward to working closely with the new Vice-Mayor.

Dr. Williams concluded by saying it was a privilege and honor to be of service to the citizens of Danville.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Archie stated her email had changed and would no longer receive mail at the old email address.

Council Member Castiglione congratulated Dr. Williams and Mr. Saunders and stated he looked forward to working with them.

Council Member Daniels congratulated the new Mayor and Vice-Mayor and thanked former Mayor Hamlin for his service. Mr. Daniels said he had been a good Mayor and had been a stabilizing force and a great leader.

Council Member Hamlin congratulated Mayor Williams and thanked him for his support while serving as Vice-Mayor. Mr. Hamlin congratulated Mr. Tomer and welcomed him to City Council. The former Mayor thanked his family for their support.

Council Member Luther thanked Mr. Saunders and Mayor Williams for their show of unity.

Council Member Oakes offered his congratulations and welcomed Mr. Tomer to City Council.

Vice-Mayor Saunders thanked Mr. Castiglione for the kind nominating speech and Mr. Hamlin for seconding the nomination. He stated that Mayor Hamlin had done an excellent job of leading the City and had been a great Mayor. He thanked his wife, Sandy, who was present, and other family members for their love and support. Mr. Saunders said there was a wonderful united Council, community, and region. He stated it would be his goal to maintain the spirit of cooperation through consensus building. Both the City and the region had had its share of economic challenges. Mr. Saunders said he was proud to report that because of teamwork the region was on the mend. Through a united Council and a very capable city administration and regional neighbors, Mr. Saunders stated he knew the citizens of the city and the region would be just fine. He thanked Council for its vote of confidence and Mr. Saunders pledged to do his very best as Vice-Mayor.

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Council Member Tomer congratulated Mayor Williams and Vice-Mayor Saunders. He thanked former Mayor Hamlin for his service to the City. Mr. Tomer said that when he thought of today, the word "hope" came to mind. He said he had thought of the quote, "When all is lost and everyone seems to give up, hope whispers, give it one more try." Mr. Tomer said he was hopeful that the Council and the City would move forward and that together; the nine Council Members would come to the medium of compromise and stop up to the challenges. Mr. Tomer said it would not always be easy and as a Council would not always agree, but it is within that compromise, Danville would move forward. Mr. Tomer said it was an honor to be a part of the Council, that for him it was a dream come true. He thanked the voters for the honor of serving on Council. Mr. Tomer recognized and acknowledged the presence of his wife, Robin, and thanked Mrs. Tomer for her support. Mr. Tomer said he hoped the issues raised during the May Councilmanic elections would not be forgotten. He said several "hot button" issues were raised and some real concerns came out. He said together, a lot would be accomplished and Danville would move forward.

Council Member Archie said Mayor Williams and Vice-Mayor Saunders would make a beautiful team as leaders to keep Council straight. She stated Council would expect a great deal from the two of them because those who have much are expected to give much.

Mrs. Archie thanked them both for accepting the positions and looked forward to working together under their leadership.

Mayor Williams said there was no better team that could have been put together by the citizens of Danville to accomplish the goals of the City. Dr. Williams congratulated Mr. Tomer and stated he looked forward to working with him.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:28 P.M.

MAYOR

CLERK